

Better Weather Edition



Freakshow?

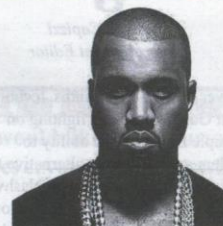
Countdown to an increasingly bizarre presidential election

3

Finding Yeezus

Kanye's rattling performance at Bridgestone

15



THE BELL RINGER

Montgomery Bell Academy

4001 Harding Road Nashville, TN

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BIG RED DEBATE: MBA has found great success recently with our debate program. Pictured here is our championship team.

Montgomery Bell Debate Trailblazes through Country

By Andrew Kaplan
Managing Editor

The debate team has lived up to the preseason hype, dominating the prestigious Greenhill Fall Classic to begin the season.

What makes the MBA debate program unique as a powerhouse nationally is the depth of quality of teams on the squad. Rather than merely one or two competitive teams of two, the Big Red has four or more teams competitive enough to compete in elimination rounds at major national tournaments.

The national policy debate season formally begins with the Greenhill Round Robin, comprised of the sixteen best teams according to preseason rankings. The MBA team of Andrew Kaplan and Ben Rosenthal were invited to the

competition. They won their pod of eight teams, advancing to the final round of the prestigious invitational, coming in at second place overall.

The Greenhill Fall Classic followed the round robin. MBA's showing at the tournament was the best by any one school at the tournament in history. Four teams cleared to the elimination rounds. The team of John Cooper and Ben Jablonski cleared with a 4-2 prelim record and made a respectable run to the double octafinals. Aden Barton and Julian Habermann advanced to the quarterfinals, earning their first bid to the Tournament of Champions. The duo is comprised of a freshman and a sophomore. The duo's run into the late elims is indicative of the future the MBA debate team has as a dynasty for years to come. Barton and Habermann were one of three MBA teams

in the quarterfinals, the first time three teams from a single school advanced to the quarterfinals of the Greenhill Fall Classic. Additionally, Liam Jameson and Atticus Glen made a run all the way to the semifinals. With two teams in the semifinals of the first major national tournament of the varsity season, MBA's outlook for the season ahead looks better than it has for years.

What is next for MBA debate? Certainly the novice teams will contend for the novice national championship at Woodward in the spring, but they must first learn the ropes of debate as first year competitors. For the varsity squad, there are a series of major national tournaments every few weeks throughout

Safe Spaces Challenge First Amendment

By Jack Capizzi
Entertainment Editor

The importance of the "safe space" and "political correctness" culture will affect every MBA student to enter college. Following the University of Chicago's recent statement against the safe space movement, more attention has been drawn to the realities of the controversial topic.

The reality of "PC" culture's impact on our own culture lies in the open deterioration of one of the most identifiable and tremendous legacies of our nation, the First Amendment. The First Amendment was made to address the oppression that the colonies felt towards their rights of speech under rule of a monarchy. The amendment strictly says, "Congress shall make no law... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press."

While many believe that the PC movement has been confined to college campuses, the rhetoric of the movement has seeped into many governmental decisions, which have in turn led to a series of dire consequences. The importance of understanding this constitutional foundation for freedom of speech is crucial to preserving the rights of Americans made vulnerable by this movement.

Unfortunately, the PC movement does not believe that any person should be able to say what he or she wishes, detrimental or not. Instead, this culture has taken a stance that uses trigger warnings and safe spaces as devices through which to persecute other citizens. Policing vocabulary and human expression draws close comparisons to a book which most of the student body are familiar with, George Orwell's 1984. The "thought crime" and "Newspeak" have been

Cont. Page 19

Cont. Page 6

Google Fiber Comes to Nashville at Snail's Pace

By Jack Capizzi
Entertainment Editor

Over the last few months, technology giant Google has been fighting on multiple fronts for the ability to implement the internet alternative to all of Nashville. While many in Nashville have been waiting for the rollout of the company's plan, those who have the most control over the matters have been feeling otherwise.

Constant disputes with local government and competing Internet companies have left the fate of Google Fiber in question.

This conflict comes as AT&T, Comcast, and Verizon control much of the property, in terms of electric poles, in Nashville. Naturally, they have been hesitant to allow a major competitor threatening to steal their customers equal access to their poles.

The local government's action has resulted from this as a series of formal pleas and lawsuits have pitted Google and the other tech companies in a legal battle for prospective control of Nashville's electronic grid.

This issue is of importance to Nashville, as the arrival of Fiber marks a significant point in Nashville's nationwide recognition. Nashville was just the third city in the United States to receive Fiber, drawing much attention to Music City. Mayor Megan Barry recognized the importance of the product's arrival to Music City when

saying, "High-speed broadband service is critical to the city of Nashville's future." The arrival of the tech powerhouse, coupled with Nashville's recognition as the kindest city in the United States, has reflected the massive growth and influx of population the city has felt in recent years.

Fiber's recognition comes from its revolutionary performance. Fiber's speed is around 100 times faster than cable, their customer service allows a simple installation and appointment system, it costs less than competing companies, they include a Nexus 7 tablet for free for use as a remote control. To many, the upsides to Fiber drastically outweigh the downsides—namely, that it has not yet been set up.

Following the conflict from the other tech companies, the legal system has stepped in to draw these matters to a close. A series of meetings over the last months and next few weeks will include a vote for the implementation of the "One Touch Make Ready" plan, which would allow Google to initiate development on a large scale without hindrance. The "One Touch Make Ready" plan has been responded to by the alternate "Right Touch" plan, a plan that would give the Nashville Electric Service thirty to forty-five days to rollout all poles in Nashville, a near-impossible task. Following the deadline, Google would have to pay 500 dollars per pole for the rest of its construction. Members of both Comcast and AT&T



WHEN WILL IT ARRIVE? Google's attempts at providing fast internet to the Nashville area have been met with staunch opposition on multiple fronts, potentially nullifying Google's intended

drafted the "Right Touch" proposal.

As of now, the Nashville council at large has accepted the DzOne Touch Make Ready proposal. This does mean that Google will be able to begin installation of their services across the mid-state. The problems that the company now faces, however, are just as big as the ones they have just put behind them. They must now install the thousands of wires and poles that are needed to fully implement the system. Not only does this task take an enormous amount of manpower, but it also requires a significant amount of time. All of this construction will be set in action under the looming threat of one massive lawsuit.

AT&T has filed a lawsuit not against Google but against the city of Nashville. Coming one day after Megan Barry approved the law that made the

"One Touch Make Ready" official, the lawsuit claimed that AT&T owns the poles on which the wires would be installed. Nashville previously ruled that no private entity can claim control over the poles.

Google Fiber has faced numerous problems in its attempted implementation in Nashville. Originally seen as a step forward for the city, the product has had hindrances in its implementation. In the next few weeks, Google will likely be granted permission for installation, which many consider a great step forward for the city. Confusion and conflict surrounding the product, however, has made the future of Google Fiber in Nashville an uncertainty.

Phil Scholer Weighs in on the World

By Philip Scholer
Assistant Features Editor

Ireland and Apple: The European Union demanded that Apple pay Ireland back \$14.5 billion (approximately 580,000,000 cookies), because Ireland had originally taxed Apple far less than what the European Union corporate taxation policy required. Ireland appealed this order from the EU in order to remain an optimal places for large companies like Apple to set up shop with its low corporate tax.

Turkey: Following the failed coup, the country's leadership requested an arrest warrant from US for the suspected leader of the coup, Fethullah Gulen. Gulen, a longtime US resident, denies these charges. The US decline Turkey's request for extradition. Ceasefire in Syria: John Kerry and his Russian counterpart, Sergei Lavrov, reached a deal on September 12 that calls for a ceasefire in

Syria: US-backed rebels will lay down arms, and bombings from government forces backed by Russia will cease. The temporary ceasefire has allowed many Syrians to walk

out on the streets in places such as Aleppo, which has been an epicenter for constant violence and fear. The US hopes that the cease fire will allow humanitarian aid to reach displaced people in Syria who cannot otherwise access humanitarian resources. After both sides involved in this deal, the Free Syrian Army and the Assad regime, abide by the mandate for a week, the US and Russia will lead a joint force to combat terrorist groups including the Islamic State and the al-Nursa constituency. Questions still remain about the future political transition in Syria and which rebel groups are deemed to be terrorist organizations.

President Obama's Visit to Asia: The President's trip to Laos and China was meant to reaffirm good relations with these countries after the military history the US has in Laos as

well as the struggle the US and China have had diplomatically with regard to territorial claims in the South China Sea and global warming emissions reductions. Obama pledged to double yearly aid to Laos to \$30 million. This pledge is seen as important the United States's global reputation since it dropped two million tons of explosives

on the country during its secret war from 1964 to 1973. This diplomatic reconciliation demonstrates President Obama's larger diplomatic goal to achieve better relationships with countries that the US has fought against and to admit wrongdoings in these wars.

MUTUAL INTEREST? President Obama recently took a trip to China in an effort to improve relations between America and East Asia, which have traditionally been rocky due to ideological differences.



First Presidential Debate Entices Many, Sways Few



By Andrew Kaplan
News Editor

The first presidential debate of the 2016 election season spiced up the race for the White House. Breaking viewership records with more than one hundred million estimated viewers, the debate solidified a variety of perspectives voters have had regarding Clinton and Trump, while also taking a swing at undecided voters.

What is the real purpose of these televised debates? In an election with such polarizing major party candidates and a tanking third party choice in Gary Johnson, finding the swing voters and persuading them to vote for a particular candidate can be nearly impossible. Before breaking down the debate, it is necessary to understand who the swing voters are: married, college educated, suburban white women. That demographic statistically is undecided and historically can be swayed to vote for either the Democratic or Republican nominee. How will these voters be swayed?

At first glance, one might assume that Clinton's status as the first female to be a nominee of a major party might attract an incredible amount of support from this demographic, but Republican tendencies and Clinton's unfavorability make the decision for these women much murkier. Polls indicate that these undecided women overwhelmingly felt

that Clinton won the debate. Therefore it is somewhat irrelevant what the remainder of America thinks about the debate, because they have pretty much all made up their minds already regarding their votes this November.

A secondary concern of many Clinton and Trump supporters is the impact that Gary Johnson may have on the general election. Although it is abundantly clear to everyone that Johnson poses no threat to win the election himself, he is pulling votes away from Clinton and Trump, but mostly from Hillary. Another troubling aspect of this third party candidacy is Johnson's recent display of foreign policy ineptitude. The Aleppo fumble and Johnson's inability to name a single foreign leader he respects have delegitimized Johnson's campaign in the eyes of many prospective voters.

Yet despite Johnson's being unfit to be president, a number of Americans will likely still vote for him just as a statement about the supposed corruption facilitated in the American two party-dominated system. Johnson voters mostly take votes away from Hillary Clinton. Disaffected voters who will not vote for Trump because of his mental instability will also not vote for Clinton because they view her as untrustworthy. It will take these voters' understanding of the magnitude of voting for Johnson in the face of a Trump presidency to get them to switch to being reluctant Clinton supporters, yet Clinton supporters nonetheless.

Who won the debate? The people who

matter, the undecided voters, thought Clinton won the debate. There is not necessarily an indication, however, that these potential voters will vote for Clinton as a result. Supporters of Trump, or even individuals who have not disqualified Trump as their candidate, at this point have clearly been able to overlook everything that makes Clinton supporters feel that Trump would be a disaster in the presidency. And the elements of the debate that made it seem as though Clinton won - birther issue, foreign policy, taxes, and general composure - are all already factored into the decisionmaking calculus of undecided voters and Trump supporters.

If voters have not decided yet, what will make them decide? Pundits often give voters too much credit as politically interested individuals. Many Americans know that they are going to vote in November, but wait until shortly before the election to really inject their own personal beliefs about critical issues and about the candidates into their voting calculus.

The first debate was, therefore, merely a spectacle. While Clinton certainly came across much more presidential and composed under pressure than Trump, few voters were swayed to switch their vote as a result of the first fiesta. The upcoming debates will attract an increasing number of genuinely undecided voters who will be looking to get a taste of each of the candidates right before they head to the voting booths.

Conventional debate indicators of

The Bell Ringer
would like to encourage
everyone who is or will
be of age to
**Register
and
Vote!**
Living under a
democracy means
nothing if we don't at
least attempt to shape
our country the way we
want it to be.

wins and losses on specific issues and on intangible questions do not apply, as voters do not have the same calculus as they usually do. This phenomenon is a result of the support base for the Trump campaign being based on frustration toward establishment politics and a resultant rejection of everything that typical politicians strive to put forth.

The winner of the 2016 election, based on current poll aggregates, will be Hillary Clintons. If the results could still turn out in Donald Trump's favor, he will have to tap into the undecided voter demographic in order to make up essential ground by November.

PRESIDENTIAL RACE: In one the most controversial elections in American history, Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton went head to head for the first time last week, with arguably neither emerging as a clear winner.



On Kaepernick's Protest



By Ben Coulthard
Sports Editor

At first, no one noticed. Colin Kaepernick, the savior of the 2013 San Francisco 49ers Super Bowl team, took a knee during the national anthem of a preseason football game in August against the Texans. He took a knee again in the 49ers next game six days later. Again, no one noticed. The media did not pick up on Kaepernick's protest until he refused to stand for a third consecutive game.

Kaepernick's reasoning for taking a knee was that he wanted to give a voice to those who did not have one, explaining, "I'm going to continue to stand with the people that are being oppressed. To me, this is something that has to change."

The media began to ask questions. Why was Kaepernick the only player out of the whole league protesting for this cause? He was one of few who dared to speak up, failing to be deterred by the potential consequences of an incredibly publicized protest. Criticism? Sure. Lost endorsements? Kaepernick didn't care. He was willing to do what he felt necessary to get his point across. Hate poured onto Kaepernick across the

country. Many football fans wondered why someone making millions of dollars would protest the American flag because he felt "oppressed." He's been sent death threats merely because others don't agree with his viewpoint. Millions of Americans fail to understand the point of Kaepernick's protest. No one talks about why Kaepernick does what he does. Rather than complain, people should take time to think about the motive for the protest in the first place. Many attempt to weaken Kaepernick's argument by accusing the activist of doing something he's not, such as disrespecting America or its military. Kaepernick doesn't claim he's oppressed. Instead, he believes he is giving a voice to the millions of people of color in America who experience racial subjugation and violence in their daily lives yet don't have the ability to stand up for themselves.

Instead of criticizing Kaepernick, Americans should respect the courage he has displayed. Thankfully, other influential athletes have started to take their own stands. Eighteen NFL players and counting have protested in some form during the national anthem. Megan Rapinoe, the popular midfielder on the U.S. women's soccer team, has kneeled before her matches. Adam Jones, centerfielder for the Baltimore Orioles, said MLB players aren't kneeling during the national anthems because "baseball

is a white man's sport," and that it would be too risky for an African American baseball player to partake in a protest. Yet even President Obama praised Kaepernick's actions for "exercising his constitutional right" not to stand during

Rather than complain, people should take time to think about the motive for the protest in the first place.

the anthem. If nothing else, the athletes involved in these various protests are succeeding at forcing Americans to consider the magnitude of the issues facing people of color in this country. It's 2016, and we're still facing the same problems in America that people like Tommie Smith and John Carlos protested with raised fists during the 1968 Olympics. Unarmed black victims are still being shot and killed by police, and little is being done by people in control to combat these numbers from increasing. Names like Alton Sterling, Terence Crutcher, Eric

Garner, and too many more have become commonplace due to their unjust

deaths. According to The Guardian, police have killed sixty-seven people since Kaepernick's protest began. That's only 22 days. About one-fourth of those victims have been black. Many of them did not deserve to be killed. Another part of the problem is that there is no fallout from police shootings as there has been over a protest. The same people who talk about Kaepernick protesting during the national anthem have been silent when these shootings take place. That is part of the reason Kaepernick follows through with his protests. People must come to grips with this problem when they question why Kaepernick kneels. Americans need to encourage the bravery of Kaepernick's actions for succeeding generations. Generally people stand up for something that is unjust are applauded due to their determination to fix a societal problem. Kaepernick's message, however, has upset the so-called "morals" of many. Until real progress is made in the United States by confronting challenges to basic human rights, Kaepernick should continue to kneel. Once American society can answer the question of why Colin Kaepernick is protesting in the first place, change may finally come to fruition.

AP U.S. History Textbook: Marxist Propaganda?



By Mac Roberts
Assistant Opinions
Editor

Last year, in AP U.S. History, I was reading an analysis of Calvin Coolidge and his economic policies during the "roaring twenties," when I noticed that the book was particularly critical of the former president. I began to wonder about the author of my textbook. Do you have a copy of Give Me Liberty? If you do, flip to the front of your APUSH book, and there he is: Eric Foner. He didn't write history, but the way he wrote the textbook on it has made me begin to question whether or not he was interpreting it.

Foner is a professor of history at Columbia University and has chaired several major historical societies—all information found on a simple Google search. However, upon further investigation, his personal website turns up some more interesting facts. Articles, which were published by Professor Foner and compiled on his website, point to his progressive politics. In his article "Letter to Bernie"—published in the left-leaning publication The Nation—Foner

writes: "...socialism is as much a moral idea as an economic one—the conviction that vast inequalities of wealth...are simply wrong..." This statement, made in an open letter to democratic socialist Bernie Sanders, is startling, when you realize that this man is the author of the textbook APUSH students read every night. He even taught U.S. history at the University of Moscow in 1990, when the communists were still firmly in control of the Soviet people. While I don't know for sure, it stands to reason that Foner's interpretation of U.S. history was approved by Moscow, and I can't imagine that the Soviets would have approved of a pro-capitalist, pro-Republic course of study on the U.S.

All of these concerns lead me to question exactly who is writing my textbooks and whether or not they are able to leave their politics at the door. Foner is not a liberal progressive who is editing a calculus textbook. He's editing a history book—one that must be read by thousands of AP US history students in America in order to receive college credit in this prestigious national program. This book will inform and influence all of those thousands of young minds.

Even beyond Foner, however, lies greater questions. Who chose this book

and tapped Foner to write it? Who is pulling the strings on the national AP text selection committee? I hope that an even-handed committee is vetting the editors and authors of such an important text, but I don't know for sure that this is the case. Conspiracy theorists might suggest truly dark motives, but even moderate minds can become suspicious, when they are presented with the facts. Call me old-fashioned, but studying a history text written by a Marxist does not bode well with me.

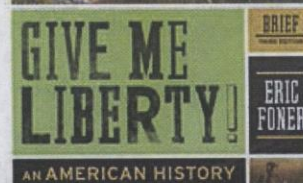
In the end, I don't expect Foner to live in a bubble. Certainly, he is entitled to his politics, as I am to mine. However, I'm writing an opinion piece, not editing a history text that thousands of students will read. If I were in Foner's position, I'm not sure I could keep out my views. They might slip in quietly. I wonder how many, if any, of Foner's views slipped in.

There is no doubt that Foner is a qualified scholar. He is learned, articulate, and, therefore, qualified to write or edit a book on history. Furthermore, he's entitled to his political views. It's not as if he should be a political eunuch just because he publishes history books.

However, the radical nature of

his politics begs the question: where is the oversight? Maybe there is plenty of fair and even-handed oversight from an AP committee, and this piece is all for nothing. But what if there isn't any? What is our responsibility as students? I end up with more questions than answers, but I think it is our moral obligation to at least ask them.

ROLL RED? Does MBA or the College Board endorse Marxism? Assistant Opinions Editor Mac Roberts thinks so.



Why We Should Not Build a Wall



By Philip Scholer
Assistant Opinions
Editor

A few days ago someone asked me, "What is so bad about building a border wall

between us and Mexico? It will just be a better means of keeping out illegal immigrants, right?"

That's a fair question, so, first, let's look at the cost.

Trump states this wall will have to be 1,000 miles long, and he estimates its cost will be somewhere between \$6 to \$12 billion. He adds that it will be constructed out of rebar, steel, and concrete, and will be 35 feet tall. However, a construction economist from The Washington Post estimated that a wall with these dimensions would cost at least \$25 billion to build (a link to this price breakdown is on our website). Furthermore, the Congressional Budget office predicts that maintenance of the wall will exceed the cost of building it within seven years. Advocates for the wall

argue that, no matter the cost, Mexico will be the one paying for it. In spite of this claim, Mexican officials have vehemently denied that they will pay for the wall. After a meeting with America's top negotiator, Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto stated that he "won't pay a cent for Trump's stupid wall."

Putting the cost aside, let's look at what building the wall would actually accomplish. Supposedly the wall would stop illegal immigrants and drugs from crossing the border to the U.S. The Pew Research Center found that "Nearly half of all the unauthorized migrants now living in the United States entered the country legally through a port of entry such as an airport." Therefore, a wall would not greatly limit illegal immigration.

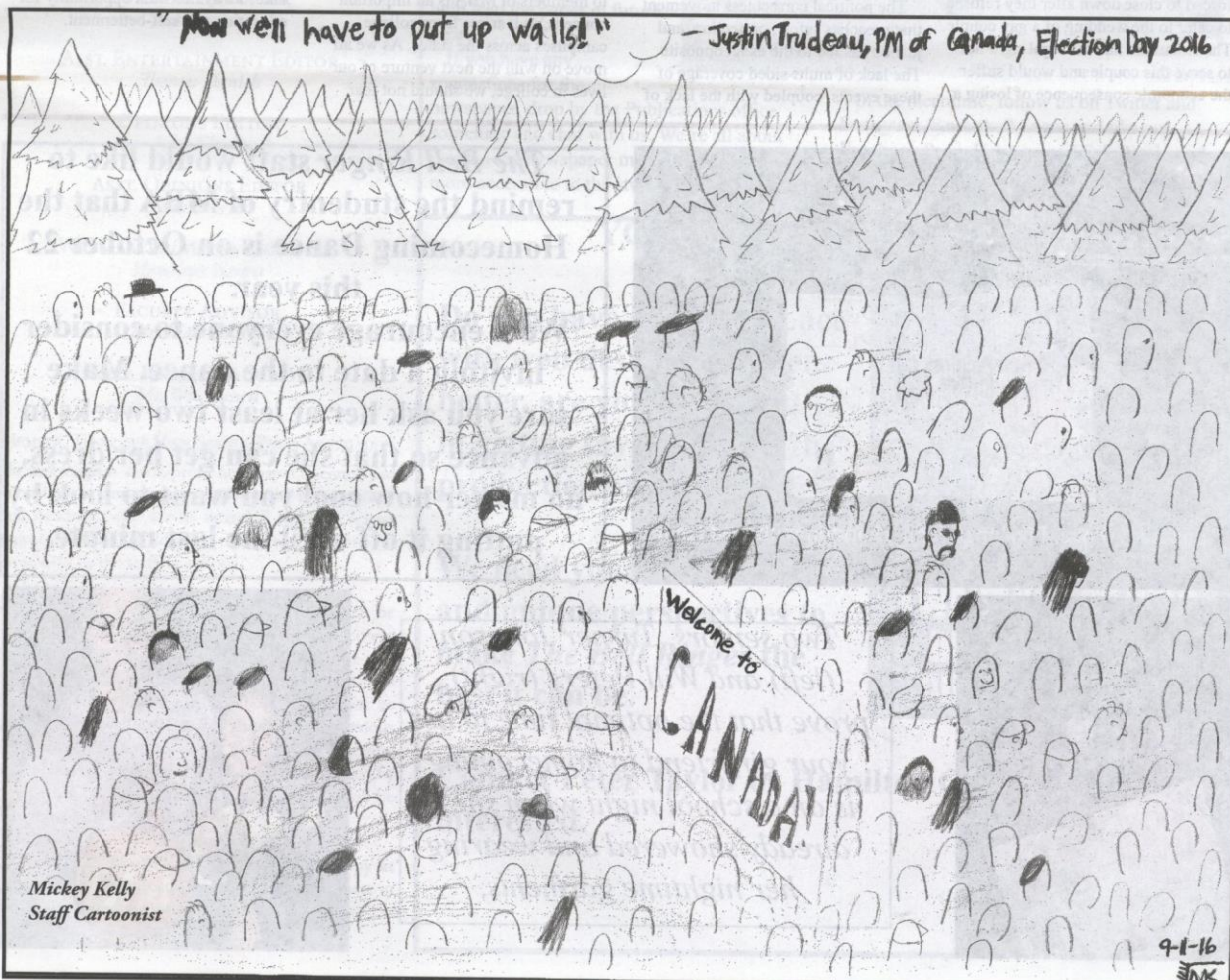
Aside from its high cost and inability

**Mexican officials
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denied that they will
pay for the wall.**

to end illegal immigration, I believe the wall would undermine American values. America is committed to be a "melting pot," accepting all sorts of people looking to escape religious persecution or seeking freedom and opportunity. The idea of a wall destroys the cultural open-mindedness that makes the American melting pot possible. It classifies one group of people as undesirable while trying to protect this society from change or integration. The American society will last because of a welcoming attitude towards integration and change. Putting up a wall between ourselves and Mexico will create unnecessary feelings of xenophobia and bigotry and slowly kill the melting-pot that has made the American society resilient for so long. Additionally the idea of the wall demonstrates a dangerous approach to foreign policy: Isolationism.

Creating a barrier between our third largest trading partner and ourselves would send a message to the rest of the world that we are only concerned about securing our own safety even if that means being hostile towards allies. Lastly, proclaiming to build a wall and the hateful rhetoric that ensues spreads

a negative perception of immigrants in America. In reality immigration is good for the economy. A report from the National Academies of Sciences reveals that labor force growth between 2020 and 2030 depends "completely on new immigrants." This report also finds that immigrants and their children have a very small impact on wages and unemployment of native-born United States citizens. Furthermore illegal immigration has stopped increasing. The Pew Research center found that the number of illegal immigrants moving to the US is equal to the number who are leaving each year. The number of illegal immigrants from Mexico since 2007 has decreased 1.1 million. Additionally, the Pew Research Center concluded that immigrants will contribute \$2 trillion to U.S. gross domestic product in 2016. Furthermore immigrants and their children contribute a greater amount in federal taxes than they receive in benefits from the federal government. The idea of this wall portrays a negative view of the United States to our allies and creates falsely founded hostility towards immigrants and the continual growth of our economy and society.





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The Bell Ringer is a non-profit newspaper operated and published by and for the students of Montgomery Bell Academy, who are its intended audience. Views expressed in *The Bell Ringer* do not necessarily represent those held by the staff or school.

Letters to the Editor are encouraged, and can be delivered to the *Bell Ringer* office in the Lowry Building, the Faculty Advisors or the Editors, or sent to bellringer@montgomerybell.edu (simply type 'Bell Ringer' into the school email). These letters must be signed; *The Bell Ringer* neither publishes anonymous submissions of opinions or articles nor permits individuals to remain unidentified unless protected by other rules of confidentiality at MBA. Letters will be edited for length and clarity.

The staff of *The Bell Ringer* prepares all copy at Montgomery Bell Academy. Tennessean/Gannett in Nashville, Tennessee, prints the paper.

A Note from The Editor

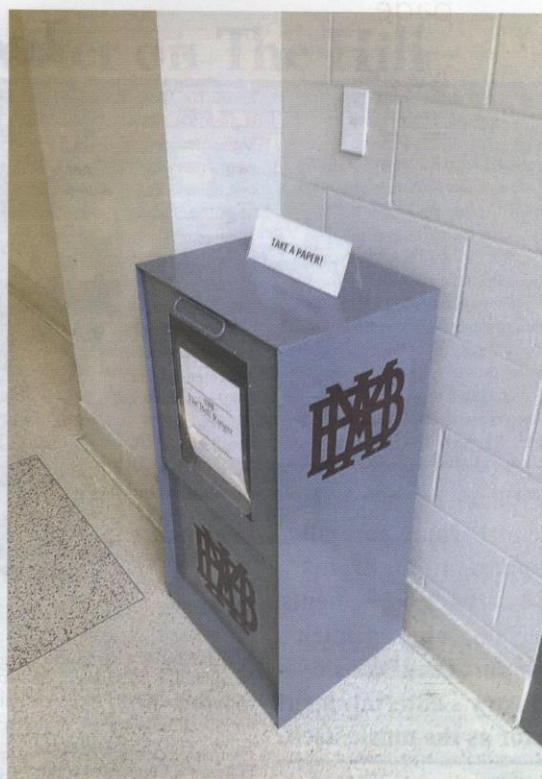
We here at *The Bell Ringer* hope that the studentry of MBA has gotten off to an excellent start to the school year.

The biggest change to the school newspaper has been the acquisition of a newspaper stand (pictured to the right) to serve as a dedicated place on campus in Lowry Hall to get a paper each time it's released.

We hope to have all of the articles in this issue online by next week before we break up for Fall Break. If you'd like to help with the website, contact Peter Taylor or Hamilton Garber.

If you'd like to write for the paper, good. We need talented writers, thinkers, and observers. We know this campus is filled with them, so bring us what you've got. We're particularly looking for underclassmen who will help lead the paper in future years.

If you have any suggestions for the newspaper, drop by the Publications office sometime and chat with us. We're all about making the newspaper more entertaining and more accessible to the students of the school.



In the meantime, follow us on Twitter and Instagram @mbabellringer and like our Facebook Page. Have a good Fall Break, and Roll Red.

YOU!

Do you have any experience with web design? Or, even better, are you interested in getting involved with the production of a website?

We need your creative input and unique perspectives to make *The Bell Ringer* the best it can be.

Contact Peter Taylor or Hamilton Garber if interested.



Cont. from front page

of the student body are familiar with, George Orwell's 1984. The "thought crime" and "Newspeak" have been replaced with so-called "triggers" and a language without the existence of "hate speech." This attack on the first amendment unlocks the door towards an increasingly Orwellian society.

The way that the American system has been to ensure that a person may say what he or she wishes without government interaction, but is not protected from the effects that may come of such actions. For example, if a person desires to post a racist or provocative statement on Facebook, they may do so. They must, however, realize that such an action can very easily lead to such consequences as being denied a job or people refusing to interact with them. Another example would be a restaurant that refuses to serve someone based on a characteristic of that person. They would face the damaging effect of their actions upon their business. The second example runs along the lines of an incident that happened just last year. A Christian-owned Pizza parlor in Indiana was forced to close down after they refused to cater to the wedding of a gay couple. The restaurant had the legal right not to serve this couple and would suffer the economic consequence of losing a

significant amount of business. The actions of the owners were, however, seen as unacceptable by a vast number of people who began to call the owner's bigots, members of the KKK, and even "members of the Third Reich."

The American system was not set up to allow members of the population to be persecuted when stating their opinion, nor was it set up to isolate people from the truth. The refusal to state a fact after it has been established has been a recent scourge on many media outlets. Following the shooting at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, many news outlets refused to state that the shooter was a follower of radical Islam, even after the transcripts of a statement the shooter made, in which he declared his actions were made in the name of the radical sect of Islam at the scene of the shooting. This fact is important to the understanding of the motive of such actions, as well as to the ability to form solutions for such situations in the future. The refusal to reveal this information did not stop at the level of the press, even, as the Department of Justice official removed the references to Islam from the official records of the event.

The political correctness movement that preaches safety, protection, and justice has led to the exact opposite. The lack of multi-sided coverage of these events, coupled with the lack of

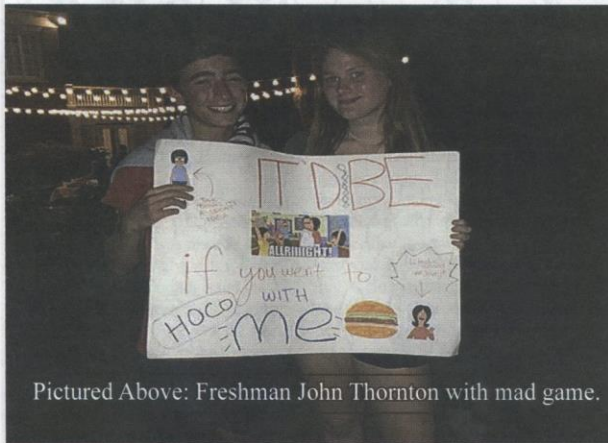


FIRST AMENDMENT FREEDOM: The University of Chicago has recently placed a ban on safe spaces, encouraging the flow of ideas and thoughts, even if such things may be considered offensive to some.

discipline against these movements from leaders of college campuses and the government, has fostered an environment in which these prohibitory actions may go unchecked. If words become legally censored, as this movement has called for, a more authoritarian government, a government not reflective of the central ideals that were laid out in America's foundation, will be created.

The political correctness movement to members of MBA is an important concern, as it arises from college campuses across the states. As we all move on with the next venture of our lives in college, we should not fear

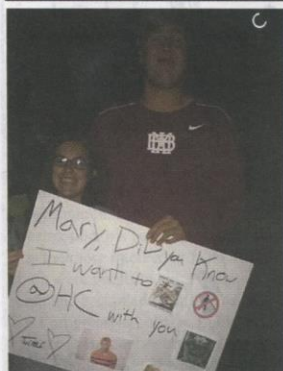
to speak our minds and share our opinions. Fortunately, institutions such as the University of Chicago have begun to take a stance against these detrimental movements, paving the way for an educational experience that allows for the expression of all ideas. College is a place for the engagement of ideas for greater learning, a place to hear different opinions and to develop your own as a result. Censoring these discussions takes away this vital opportunity for education and self-betterment.



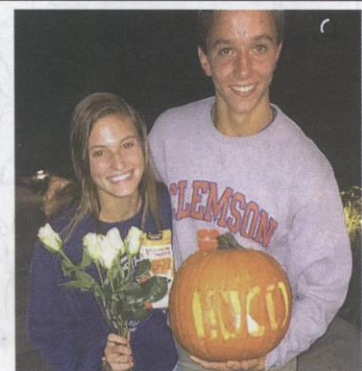
Pictured Above: Freshman John Thornton with mad game.

The Bell Ringer staff would like to remind the studentry of MBA that the Homecoming Dance is on October 22 this year.

We'd encourage everyone to consider inviting a date to the dance. Make sure you ask her at least two weeks in advance so that she can get her dress, no matter how cool you want to look by putting it off until the last minute.



Two seniors, Turner Johnson (left) and Will Peters (right), prove that the optimal time to ask your girlfriend to homecoming is on a school night when she is already showered and wearing her nighttime garments.



Art, or Distraction? The State of the Music Industry

By John Thornton
Staff Music Enthusiast

Ten years ago, Rihanna was still a relatively unknown up-and-comer from the Caribbean, Taylor Swift hadn't released her first album, and Kanye West was still letting people finish. Hard to believe, right? Today, the advent of visual albums, exclusive streaming deals, and overblown MTV celebrity feuds has changed the music industry forever.

A prominent source of contention between artists and their listeners has been exclusive music streaming on

Whatever the cause, it has become painfully apparent that drama and petty disagreements have become as much a part of the music industry's entertainment factor as the music itself.

Apple Music, Tidal, and other online services. Beginning with Taylor Swift's "spontaneous" open letter to Apple and Jay Z's "revolutionary" TIDAL, countless artists have been choosing to restrict their music to paid companies. This practice has varying levels of success. For example, Taylor Swift released her wildly successful 1989 exclusively on Apple Music, selling 1.3 million copies in a single week. Conversely, Rihanna released her highly-anticipated eighth album ANTi on Tidal and only managed

IMMA LET YOU FINISH: In 2009, Kanye West drew major controversy over his interruption of Taylor Swift's acceptance speech for a music video award.

to sell 166,000 copies in ANTi's highest-earning week. It seems that the success of an "exclusive" album simply depends on the promotion it gets and the interest in the platform through which it is released.

1989 was heavily promoted worldwide, and countless Apple users had already signed up for Apple Music when it was released. ANTi never settled on an official release date until the last moment, and only released one mildly successful (at the time) lead single, *Work*. Additionally, Jay Z's TIDAL was an abject failure, with few users willing to pay the expensive subscription for the sake of a few extra albums and better sound quality.

Although the average listener might not be aware of the intricacies of music streaming and commercial sales, he or she has no doubt heard of the heated feuds between artists such as Taylor Swift, Katy Perry, Kanye West, Nicki Minaj, and Miley Cyrus, perpetuated by social media as well as companies like MTV that specialize in drama and gossip.

In fact, the connection of many of



SHUT UP AND DRIVE: Popular artist Rihanna gets close to the camera.

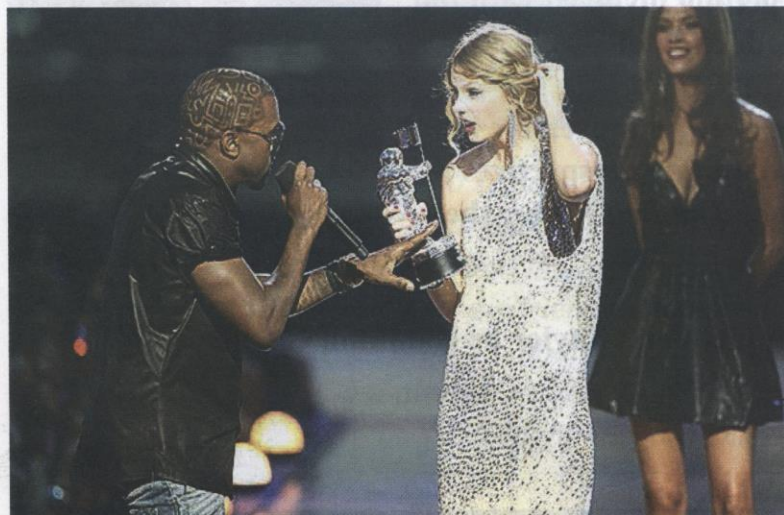
these feuds to MTV has led many to believe that they might not be entirely authentic. Take, for example, the random disapproving comments Miley Cyrus made about Nicki Minaj in an interview, followed by Nicki Minaj's live diss from out-of-nowhere (the words "Miley what's good?" won't be forgotten anytime soon). Whatever the cause, it has become painfully apparent that drama and petty disagreements have become as much a part of the music industry's entertainment factor as the music itself. Even the infamous beef between Taylor Swift (a recurring theme) and Kanye West can be chalked down as a simple misunderstanding that could have been settled in a mature and subtle way. No such luck. The feud, of

course, escalated when Swift bashed West for his inappropriate lyrics using her name, causing the public backlash against him to grow even stronger. Subsequently, West and his wife Kim Kardashian discredited Swift by revealing that she was (supposedly) on board with West's "diss" of her the entire time.

But what does it all matter? At

the end of the day, is anyone going to remember the petty rivalries between these artists? Or will they remember Swift's iconic pop songs, West's edgy and critically acclaimed music, and Kim's extensive work for fashion and reality TV? Musical artists today find themselves in danger of letting their quality music be overshadowed by their reckless actions. This trend is nowhere more apparent than in Harlem rapper Azealia Banks. Though her music has met positive reception, her outspoken nature and polarizing opinions keep anyone from actually paying attention to the "art". Despite the fact that some of her points are grounded in intelligence and a deep care for certain issues, Banks' bullying of a 12-year-old child on Twitter will almost certainly outlast her sleeper hit "212".

Things are changing in the music industry now more than ever. Artists are fighting, music is being kept under a virtual lock and key, and all of the nonsense and noise has a tendency to distract people from the very thing that originated the industry in the first place: quality, meaningful, well-crafted music. The industry would be in better shape with more of artists who focus on simply creating good music instead of investing in petty feuds or worry about their profitability through exclusive streaming deals and slow-bun releases.



Return to the Forbidden Planet: A Celebration of Theater on The Hill

By Joe Spear
Assistant Features Editor

From August thirty first through September third the MBA/Harpeth Hall theatre departments performed their latest production, *Return to the Forbidden Planet*. The preview, presented in assembly, really displayed the liveliness and energy of the show, especially by Captain Tempest, played by John Fioravanti, with his laser gun and snapping leather jacket. This energy, as well as the incorporation of science fiction, was a pleasant and surprising change from the often intense, serious, and suspenseful plays performed by MBA.

About 15 minutes before the play began, Jack Capizzi '17, who was part of the space crew ensemble came up to the crowd and instructed on how to actively participate in the show. This opportunity, coupled with the crew's full use of the auditorium surrounding the audience, added another dimension to the spectacle. The play is set aboard the *Dreamchaser* starship during a routine flight. Soon after takeoff, they are caught in an asteroid storm, which damages the ship. The ship is damaged and landed on an uncharted planet, D'Illyria. Upon arrival, they discover one Earth's most renowned scientists, Doctor Prospero, who is stranded with his daughter. Prospero tells the tale of his perfidious wife who had launched Prospero into space to his death fifteen years before. After only a few scenes, the show dives into a quickly thickening plot jam packed with action, adventure, and even betrayal.

The vocal performance was the strongest aspect of the show. There were some very strong voices in the cast list, and the song selection included some

classics such as "Great Balls of Fire," "Teenager in Love," and "Monster Mash." Whether it was John Fioravanti hitting the high notes, or Charlotte Staggs serenading the whole entire audience with her magical voice, the vocals in this play really heightened the experience.

John Fioravanti had some great words to say about the play, evidence of the great time he had: "The play was an absolute blast. Being in a show compiled of Shakespearean lines and catchy fifties music definitely presents itself as an unconventional and challenging show, but the cast and crew took on the challenge with great diligence. Not only that, but they were a great group to work with making a memorable experience for my last musical." Peter Taylor, who had the lead role in the play, also had a similar experience to John's,



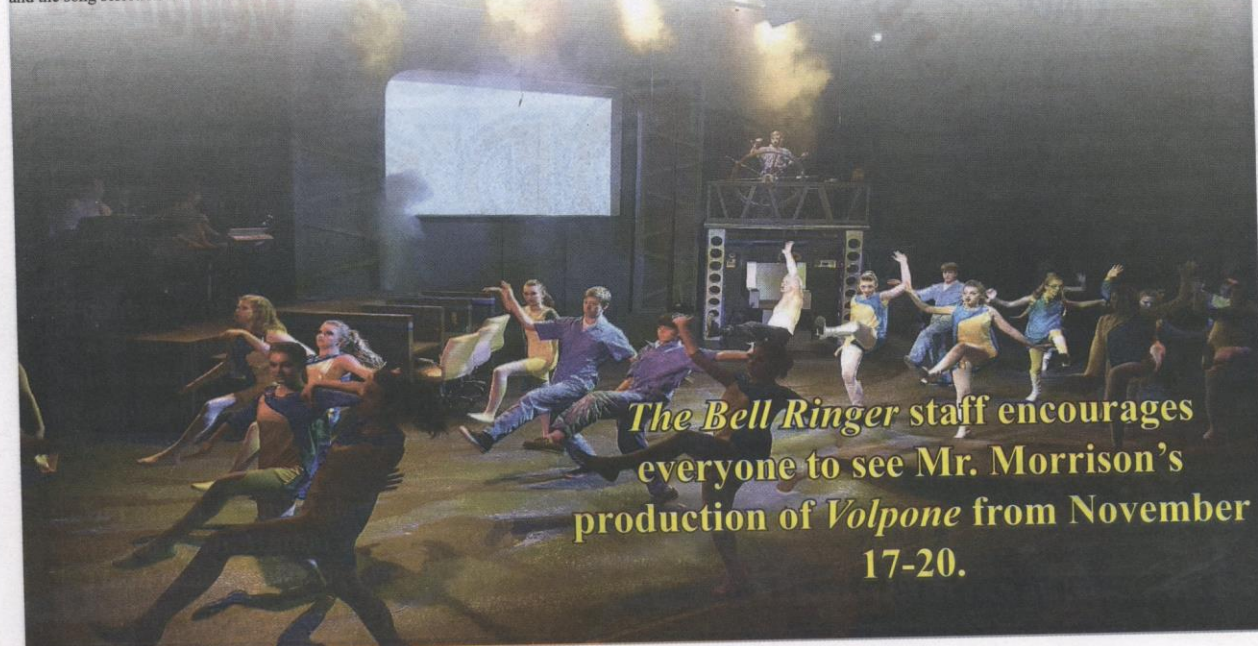
HOLD YOUR FIRE, NOW LISTEN MISTER! John Fioravanti '17 (left) and Peter Taylor '17 (right) played the two lead roles: Captain Tempest, the starfleet officer, and Doctor Prospero, the mad scientist. Pictured behind them are Harrison Kidd '18 and John Thornton '20, the first and second mates of the starship.

"Return to the Forbidden Planet was my ninth play at MBA and easily my favorite. This was the first play where I had a lead role, so I got into acting like I never had before. The rest of the cast was what made the show as spectacular as it was. I'm honored to have worked with them." Peter then went on to say that the experience seemed to be enjoyable for the entire cast and crew.

The visuals of the show were another strength. Lighting, set design, and costumes were spectacular. Every detail had been carefully planned and executed,

making the entire show appealing to the eye. A personal favorite was Gloria's costume, and it certainly seemed that Kat Trotman, who played Gloria, took pleasure in portraying such a vibrant character.

It is quite evident that the theater department at MBA is one of the strongest on campus, and Dr. Fuller and Mr. Morrison have done fantastic jobs of directing so many great plays, and especially Dr. Fuller for directing this masterpiece. Congratulations is due to all who had a hand in its making.



The Bell Ringer staff encourages everyone to see Mr. Morrison's production of *Volpone* from November 17-20.

Kanye West Electrifies Bridgestone

By Robert Cowan
Staff Pablo

Kanye West knows a couple things. He knows he is great, he knows he is a god, and he knows how to put on a show. So when Kanye came to Nashville on September 24th, it was surely one for the ages. The excitement could be felt in the air upon entry. A stage, consisting of a large light structure, hung above the crowd and stretched from each side of the arena to a platform at the far end, suspended in the air by four cables. The concert begun with an almost divine emergence of Kanye West as he rose to

the top of the stage among screams of anticipation from the surrounding crowd. He kicked off with "Father Stretched My Hand Pt.1," which captured the full attention of the crowd. Then he moved on to "Famous." Kanye began the song normally, progressing through his infamous line about Taylor Swift, then stopped and said, "Hold up, I need to hear that loud in Nashville!" He went on to repeat this line two more times because he knew that he was on Taylor's home turf and he wanted to make a point.

For the entire concert, the lights were never directly on Kanye himself, making him hard to see but creating a nightclub

vibe. Video boards surrounded the top of the enormous structure but they were very grainy, to add an old school look to the show. Another surprising element occurred when Kanye announced that fellow rapper, Tyler the Creator, was at the show. Although he did not perform, he joined the "mosh pit" that formed on the floor during a couple of the louder songs. Kanye was always just high enough off the ground so the people could not touch him, making his godlike figure even more present.

The thirty-one songs he played were all crowd pleasers, most coming off of his album *The Life of Pablo*, though

still a good mix of other classics, including "Stronger" and "Blood on the Leaves." He also played his verse off of "Pop Style" by Drake and a cover of "I Don't Like" by Chief Keef.

And what is a Kanye concert without a rant about something? This one featured a rant about his latest fashion show, during which some models fainted from the outside heat. Kanye received much criticism. So to get revenge for the negative review, he performed a freestyle about how he would write a song and "put their names in the song." The other rant was about his

fashion line and his shoes. He discussed how he wants to make his clothing more accessible to a greater range of people. He also claimed that he is the "greatest artist alive" because all the other ones are dead. It was classic Kanye.

Kanye ended the show with "Fade" and "Ultralight Beam." For "Fade" he simply stood in the middle of the stage while a string of lasers were projected from one side of the arena to the other, cutting through his body. The only way to describe "Ultralight Beam" is awe-inspiring. There was a single light beam in the middle of the platform, which moved the entire span of the arena.

As the song was ending, the platform lowered to the ground and, surrounded by complete darkness, he stepped off the stage. For tonight, God had left the building.

No words can express how amazing this show was. You had to be there to feel the energy of the crowd with Kanye in their presence. With the stage above the audience, Kanye elevated himself to a higher level of importance. No matter what you think about Kanye as a person, he certainly knows how to make people love him and how to perform an absolutely amazing show, one that no one will ever forget.

LIFE OF PABLO: Kanye West came to Nashville's Bridgestone Arena and delivered an incredible show. (Photo Credit to Robert Cowan).



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Capizzi's Corner: Frank Ocean Returns

By Jack Capizzi
Entertainment Editor

On August 20th, Frank Ocean released *Blond*, his first album in four years. For Ocean, the album encompassed much more than just seventeen tracks.

Following his award-winning debut album, *Channel Orange*, Ocean's fans had been long awaiting the twenty-eight year olds next project. While *Channel Orange* was raised to a legendary status by the amount of attention it received from the musical world, people were expecting a huge follow up album.

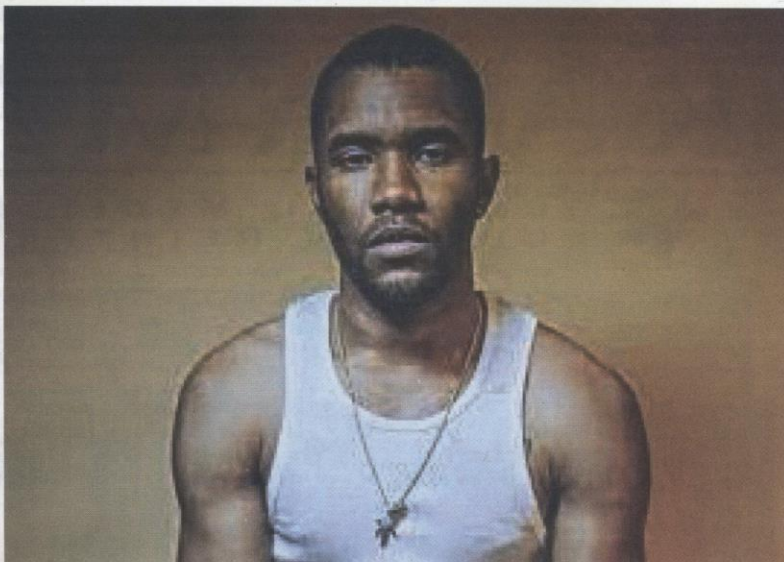
That album never arrived. For four years, Frank released no music, performed as many times as can be counted on one hand, and even more mysteriously, was rarely seen in public.

Much of the fervor surrounding the New Orleans R&B singer arose on February 14th of this year, when Ocean was featured in Kanye West's *The Life of Pablo*. Singing for fifty seconds on a stripped-down verse at the end "Wolves," Ocean reminded everyone not only of his talent, but of his presence. This appearance sparked a six-month game of cat-and-mouse between Ocean and his fans over his new album's release, culminating with its surprise drop in the mid-August.

Blond showcases a Frank Ocean that had not yet been heard. The album is much more stripped down

from the electronic beats and fast paced meter of *Channel Orange*. *Blond* is composed of numerous different guitar and piano melodies, which sets up a subtle canvas on which Frank showcases his voice.

From the very first song, the difference is evident. "Nikes" begins with an autotuned Ocean singing over a slow, methodical synth. Midway through the opener, the song splits in half and the full vocals of Ocean are released into the song parallel to a simple acoustic guitar. This introduction reveals that this project marks a new chapter in Ocean's music—one that reflects the artist as a whole. "Ivy" can easily draw comparisons to "Bad Religion" and "Novacane" as a narrative track reflecting a specific time in Ocean's life. Here he references the dream of



FRANK OCEAN RETURNS : Frank Ocean recently released his first album in four years to great acclaim and the jubilation of his fans, who had been hungering for more his music after his lack of output and live performances.

being young and in love. This time, against an electric guitar, Ocean's voice resonates through his message. "Pink + White" gives the listener insight into the new perspective of Ocean as he sings about his view on certain relationships. The track features an upbeat piano and string section, which gives the track a memorable tone. Another standout track is "Self Control." Mirroring "Nikes" in structure, "Self Control"

features two distinct halves. The first half has Ocean singing along to, you guessed it, another guitar, accompanied by a high pitched voice which punctuates his lyrics with a series of lines. The song then diverges from the first half when an immense string section is lifted over the guitar and Frank's full

voice pushes its way to the forefront.

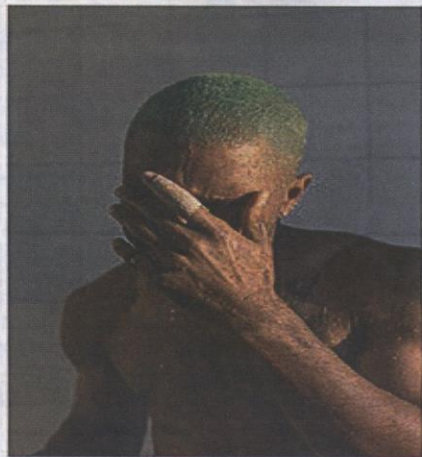
Past this point, the album briefly stagnates over a series of skits and mediocre songs, interrupted only by "Solo (reprise)," a track from which the vocals come solely in the form of a rap from Andre 3000.

"Solo (reprise)" is as unexpected as it is unusual. Rapping about murder, his career, and the work ethic of today's popular musicians, Andre 3000 seems to be lifting a weight off of his shoulders with his confronting tone.

The last significant track from this album is "White Ferrari." It's the prettiest track of the album, as Ocean's deep vocals reflect a seemingly sad mindset after something bad has occurred. One can easily feel the emotion being released by this song as the combination of background music and vocals blends seamlessly to form the beauty of the track. *Blond* is different for Frank Ocean, an album that had been lying dormant for the past four years. The album marks a significant turn for Ocean as it raises questions over when his next album will be released. Will it release in a normal time frame? Hopefully not in four years. Regardless, the album is truly magnificent, fulfilling all expectations for the young artist. There are no longer any questions of Frank Ocean's potential—only those of how he will use it next.

HE'S BACK : Frank Ocean's newest album has received widespread acclaim from music critics, with his arrangements described as "seamless" by Greg Kot of the Chicago Tribune.

blond



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Jack White Brandishes Acoustic Roots

By Landis Hall
Staff Third Man

Jack White's new album, *Acoustic Recordings 1998-2016*, is exactly what it sounds like: a collection of every acoustic song recorded throughout his career, from his work with The White Stripes to The Raconteurs to his solo material.

The album consists of acoustic songs previously released as well as unreleased numbers and acoustic versions of others. Most of the album is made up of older material, but as a whole, the album feels fresh. Many fans will instantly recognize some of his most famous songs, such as "Hotel Yorba," a song named after a Detroit hotel, "Blunderbuss," one of his more recent hits, and "City Lights," a previously unreleased song. Another welcome new addition is "Love is the Truth," once rejected from a Coke commercial. It's easy to tell when each song was made, because White's style sounds different with each band. The White Stripes' songs are bluesy, The Raconteurs sound more alternative, and his solo works have more of a Southern feel. Third Man Records, Jack White's record label and store, put a lot of attention into producing the album. Each song includes an interactive timeline where listeners can view the history and story behind each song.

The Bell Ringer went down to Third

Man to ask the employees questions about the album. They said sales were very successful, and that there was a line out the door from the time the store opened to the time it closed the first couple of days after release. Sales were about as steady as his other albums have been, and it is still selling steadily today as one of the top ten bestselling alternative albums on iTunes.

The album is available for download on digital devices, but vinyl versions come with more features. The standard edition includes a black vinyl record along with a photo

book showing the recordings of the songs through the years and an intro by music critic and journalist Greil Marcus. The special edition comes on an even higher quality blue vinyl.

Overall, *Acoustic Recordings* is more than just a simple compilation album. It is a tribute to all of Jack White's work, past and present. Compared to his other albums, it is definitely up there with his best ones. Even so, there are

some criticisms. It feels as though there aren't enough unreleased songs, the aspect of the album fans were looking forward to the most. It's good to hear old songs, and new mixes of old songs, but there isn't as much brand new material as many listeners expected. In any case, the positives outweigh the negatives in *Acoustic Recordings*. The album is definitely a solid 9.5 out of 10, recommended to anyone who likes acoustic songs, Jack White songs, or the alternative rock genre as a whole.

Jack White: *Acoustic Recordings 1998-2016* is available to download

digitally or in vinyl form at Third Man Records.



TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY BLUESMAN: Nashvillean Jack White, as he channels the raw blues that has made him so successful into an acoustic setting.



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Contact Peter "Tolstoy" Taylor, Andrew "Totomoi" Kaplan, John "Tempest" Fioravanti, or Mr. "Red Telephone" Hutton if you're interested.



"THE DIRTY DOZEN"- EDITORIAL STAFF OF THE BELL RINGER

Narcos Remains Strangely Addictive

By John Fioravanti
Features Editor

Warning: this article, though written with the intent of containing very few, contains spoilers to both season one and season two of *Narcos*. You've been warned!

If there is one thing Netflix excels at, it's their production of television series. *Narcos* is no exception. The show is unique both in its subject matter and its style. It has an iconic voice that puts it in its own class. While season one of *Narcos* portrays the construction of Pablo Escobar's cocaine empire, season two shows the crumbling of the kingdom that took so long to build. In season one, viewers are taken through the entire process of production, shipment, and expansion of cocaine and establishment of Escobar's cocaine empire through the narration of Steve Murphy. Murphy is new to his job at the DEA and still learning the process himself as the story progresses. Along with Murphy's voiceover narration, episodes are filled with deal making, cinematic foot chases and firefights, intense violence, sex, and high-tension political negotiation. There's hardly a dull moment.

The second season continues its documentary-style storytelling, but the style, while effective at communicating background information, may be overused for some tastes. It can't be denied that less voiceover narration would result in a closer audience-character relationship. An issue for

many in season one, the narrative approach continues into season two.

But in spite of the heavy-handed narration, *Narcos* works brilliantly in controlling the viewer's feelings about each character. The show is crafted in a way that makes Pablo, a crazed mass murderer, the most captivating character.

Escobar's characterization puts the viewer in a perplexing position. Of course, he or she is morally obligated to want Escobar to be captured. Yet, oddly enough, his close calls with the police are both thrilling and nerve wracking. The viewer becomes worried about Escobar's wellbeing as a family man. He has a wife and two kids. The viewer even becomes a bit concerned on an emotional level towards his scumbag "Sicarios." They are often comical, and many have been working for Escobar from the outset. They even play with his kids.

Meanwhile, law enforcement commits great acts of violence as they fight the war on cocaine. The passionate "Search Bloc" leader and personal enemy of Escobar, Colonel Horatio Carrillo, takes part in the torture and murder of many of Escobar's "Sicarios." These atrocities plunge the viewer into swamps of moral grey area. In doing so, a perfect balance is struck between the viewer's love for the narcos and a desire for peace through their demise.

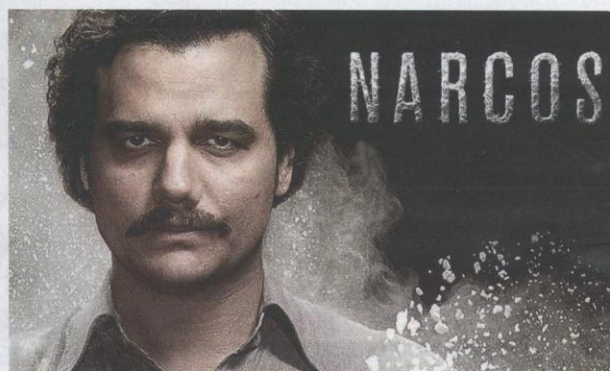
Another strength is the acting—probably its greatest merit. Every character is memorable, from the insignificant informant to the higher-ups

of Escobar's empire. Second season welcomes a few new characters to the mix, all of whom deliver strong performances. Still no character is more essential to get right than Pablo himself. After all, he is the face of every advertisement, and the central focus of the story. Wagner Moura exceeds expectations in his portrayal as the Colombian drug king plays the role of Escobar. In the second season, Moura portrays an older, paranoid, and delusional Pablo. These traits are displayed in every mannerism, every action and decision made by Moura, creating an even more dynamic arc for Pablo from that of the first season.

At the same time, the show suffers as a result of the investment into the character of Pablo. Murphy is effectively banned to the role of narrator, and we hardly see his wife or his family—not

that that arc was interesting in the first season anyway (#RIPPuff). Javier Pena, played by Pedro Pascal, remains the aloof stereotype of the lonesome cop who sleeps with prostitutes. He fills his role, but does not significantly develop or change.

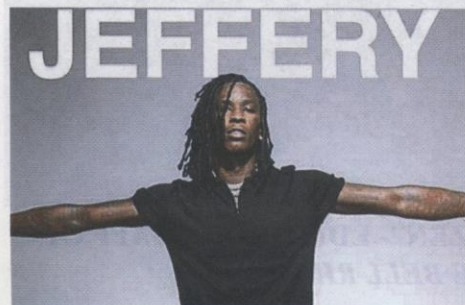
Overall, the show is not a drama like *Game of Thrones*, spoilers of which have caused death threats and broken friendships. It's hard to become emotionally attached to the narrative, but because of the show's great acting, writing, and filming, *Narcos* is intriguing and fun to watch. It certainly makes for a good distraction from studying. Definitely top-tier binge material. And who knows, a few facts about the Colombian war on cocaine might be picked up along the way as well. You never know when you may need them.



Young Thug's Jeffery Surprises and Impresses

By Ben Coulthard
Sports Editor

After he dropped two sensational projects in *I'm Up* and *Slime Season 3* early in 2016, the hip-hop world did not hear from Jeffery Williams, a.k.a. Young Thug, for six months. Williams quietly proceeded to drop *No, My Name Is Jeffery* on August 26, a surprise half-album, half-mixtape. In *JEFFERY*, Young Thug has produced an album comparable to his *Barter 6* mixtape



from 2015—something all hip-hop fans should be excited to hear.

For the cover, Thug dons a baby blue androgynous dress created by Italian designer Alessandro Trincone, showing off his belief that he can be "a gangsta with a dress" as he explained in a video for Calvin Klein earlier this year. In *JEFFERY*, Thug, producers Wheezy and TM88, and engineer Alex Tumay put together a nine-track production, including the previously released single "Pick Up The Phone" with featured

rappers Travis Scott and Quavo. The refined subtleties that the album's production crew use slam any prior criticism of Thug's music being "all the same" across the board. Minus "Future Swag," which was placed on a standard 808 Mafia produced

beat, the majority of the project features reggae and electronically-induced tones, quite different from previous tracks.

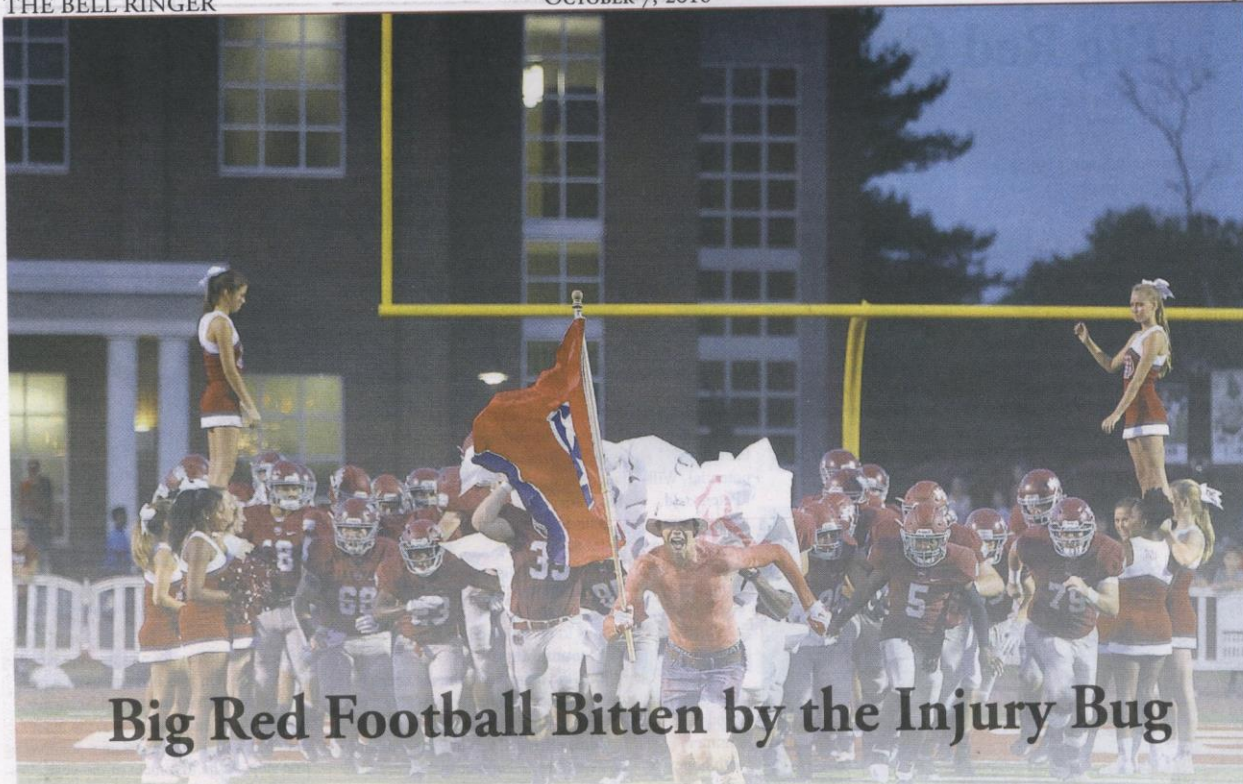
It was shortly after Thug decided to put his *Slime Season* trilogy to rest that he began to release pieces of new songs via social media. Coming off of *Barter 6*, which was successful due to its connected licks and underrated hooks, *JEFFERY* features tracks such as "Kanye West," "Swizz Beatz," and "RiRi," which Thug aptly named after his "idols."

Similar to the success *Barter 6* received as a result of its subtleties, a well-put-together album all around, *JEFFERY* displays Young Thug's lyrical prowess through his ability to form solid verses. While none of Thug's tracks dedicated to his "idols" actually involve any "idol" in a song, they do show off a new side to his music. Each song contains hints at a loving relationship (one he and his fiancée Jerrika Karlae are allegedly in). These tracks involve such things as Skyping his lover while she's overseas ("Webbie"), digging everything about

her ("Guwop"), and just being madly in love.

While Thug changes some styles in *JEFFERY*, some things just don't change for the rapper. There are many moments throughout where Thug continues delivering his typical inaudible, incomprehensible lyrics, lines that may be mistaken for screaming—an element that sees him coming in during the middle of "Swizz Beatz" to wail an aggressive "wake up to Young Thug," inaudible screaming during "RiRi," and multiple other moments in which a listener may be confused as to what the rapper is trying to say.

Overall, *JEFFERY* is a fresh work from a familiar artist in the hip-hop world. At the same time, it seems Thug is still trying to find his niche. The album is a confirmation that Thug is comfortable in his own body, exploring multiple styles. While it's not one of the best albums of the year, it goes past typical expectations for Thug. No... wait...his name is Jeffery.



Big Red Football Bitten by the Injury Bug

By Palmer Thombs
Assistant Sports Editor

The Big Red are off to a great start to the 2016 football season. Despite injuries to numerous significant players, the team has battled through the challenges of the first half of the season. Senior captain Montgomery Owen, who missed the opening game against Hewitt-Trussville (AL) after suffering an injury to his shoulder in a preseason scrimmage, spoke about the challenges that came with the injuries suffered by Team 118. "Just like every year, there are lots of injuries. This year there are a lot of guys [injured], but it's nothing too serious. Everyone who has gotten injured is

either projected to come back or has already come back," said Owen. "We have just got to keep fighting through those injuries. Like Coach Euverard says, 'Refuse to be hurt.' We've got to stay strong as a team so that we can finish the season strong."

Prior to the regular season, the Big Red lost key players to several different injuries besides the previously mentioned Owen, as numerous injuries were suffered during the team's fall camp at Bell Buckle. The Big Red opened the season with an athletic Alabama powerhouse, the Hewitt-Trussville Huskies. Despite a strong first half from the Big Red, the "Husky Fast" style of play prevailed 33-24, and the

Big Red dropped to 0-1. Along with the opening defeat, the team suffered a tough loss of senior captain linebacker Connor Mulloy due to a broken jaw.

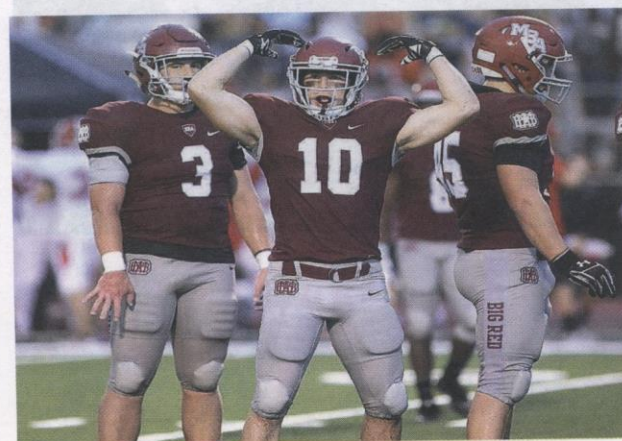
However, the disappointment of the opening loss was not too much of a setback for the Big Red. They were forced to respond the next week and have new players step up in the absence of missing leaders. Young players such as sophomore safety Nick German and junior wide receiver Jackson McFadden have stepped up to play larger roles that have led to an overall success for the team. Following the opening week loss to the Huskies, the Big Red responded with a thumping of the Pearl Cohn Firebirds in a rain shortened game. MBA came out with more energy than the previous week and fed off of the successes of other teammates. The Big Red were able to win 49-7, but they suffered another loss to injury. Returning starting tight end, Jake Evans, suffered a knee injury in an attempt to dive for a touchdown at the goal line. With Jake's absence, junior Houston Hartle, who was moved to tight end during the offseason, was asked to step up and play significant minutes for the Big Red in the games to come. MBA took care of business, beating Melrose and Hamilton 44-0 and 45-0, respectively.

Following the slate of non-conference games to open the season, the Big Red opened region play against the McCallie Blue Tornado. Luckily, Jake Evans was able to return quickly for region play and

helped the Big Red in the battle with the highly-ranked McCallie team. "Just knowing that we had the region games coming up soon, and that this was my last year, I didn't want to be sitting there watching the games from the sidelines. I wanted to be in there playing, helping out, doing what I could, because it's my last chance and you only get to do it once," Evans said.

The team leaders stepped up in the opening game of the region schedule as Ty Chandler rushed for 194 yards and 5 touchdowns, while Ty Allen threw for 141 yards and rushed for a touchdown. The defense was led by seniors Cameron Wade, who had 10 tackles, and captain Brett Starr. Montgomery Bell defeated the Blue Tornado 42-27 to open the region season strong.

Looking ahead for the Big Red, they play their first road games against Father Ryan and Pope John Paul II before the highly-anticipated state championship rematch with the Brentwood Academy Eagles. Connor Mulloy looks to return for the closing stretch of Brentwood Academy, Baylor, and Ensworth, while Ty Chandler looks to continue his dominant senior campaign. Thus far, Chandler has rushed for 760 yards and 18 touchdowns on 70 carries for an average of 10.9 yards per carry. It should be an exciting stretch to close the 2016 regular season for the Big Red as they roll into division play.



MULLOY GETS HYPE: Senior Captain Connor Mulloy, who suffered a jaw fracture at the beginning of the season, will make his return tonight at the game against Brentwood Academy, the 2015 State Champions.

Big Red Cross Country: Year of the Wolves

By Collin Ragsdale
Features Editor

On any given summer morning, just as the new day's sun peaked over the distant horizon, you could find the Big Red Cross Country team sprawled among the dewy grass of Percy Warner Park and shaking the soreness from their legs as they began their daily lunging routine. It never feels good. However, this is just part of the tough tradition instilled among this tightly knit fraternity. The daily "rise and grind" routine requires a commitment of

enormous proportions.

Yet, each member does what is necessary to achieve the ultimate dream that comes around each November: winning a state championship. With an experienced squad led by seniors Will and Tom Peters, Alden Ferguson, Collin Ragsdale and Cole Thornton, alongside one of the state's deepest squads, the team has legitimate hopes of accomplishing this dream come November.

After several years of injuries and subsequent underperforming, this team is poised for greatness. When

asked about the team's potential, Will Peters said, "This team returns a lot of talent from last year, and has a lot of hard workers. Guys have been training through the summer with hopes of making this year the best for the Big Red in a while. The guys look good with a long season ahead of them."

At its annual team

camp at Alpine Camp for Boys in Alabama, the team established the mindset of a pack mentality to drive them to greatness: Drive. Mindset. Accountability. Competitive. Build. Respect. These are the five words that will define this #yearofthewolves.

Drive: There is an intangible drive burning within the hearts and souls of the team.

Mindset: But a humble mindset that takes nothing for granted must be present if the team's goal is to be achieved.

Accountability: Within the team, each runner keeps his brothers accountable; no one gets a day off but no one is left behind either.

Competitive: Everyday the team must be geared to be competitive; every mile of running makes the team better and therefore more competitive.

Build: Success is not something that will appear over night; the wolf's pack success will be built over time and climax at the state meet.

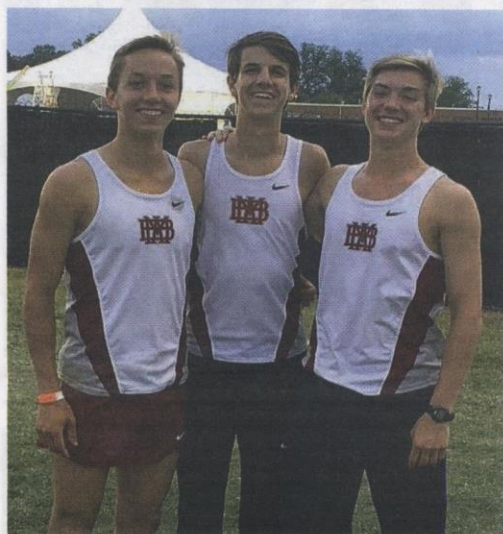
Respect: Cross country is all about respect. You must respect yourself, your body, and your competition, or else, failure is imminent.

This team is on the hunt, specifically for bitter rivals Brentwood Academy.



GRINDING IT OUT: Isaac Wills '18 and Cole Thornton '17 are two runners who are on the rise this year, vying for top spots on the varsity squad.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP: Will Peters, Alden Ferguson, and Tom Peters (pictured left to right) have stepped as leaders for the cross country team.



After several years of a rather one-sided rivalry, the Big Red is ready to its weak revenge upon the Brentwood Academy Eagles. After early successes, the team's march toward state has taken a positive first step. At its first meet of the year, the Big Red had a good showing at the Trinity Invitational. Upcoming meets include races in Owensboro, Kentucky and the Metro Championships at the Steeplechase course in Nashville.

Just like any other sport, the runners would love to have a strong showing from the Animal House at State this year. Don't miss out on the Big Red runners this year; they're primed and ready to win State.

The Bell Ringer Editors would like to give a much deserved shoutout to a few individuals on campus.

Thank you to Mr. Norton for letting us work on weekends.

Thank you to the Tech Department for being so cooperative and so chill.

Thank you to Maintenance Department and the employees of Sage: you guys deal with incredibly excessive student complaints, but your behind the scenes work makes the campus better daily.

And finally, we must thank our faculty sponsors, Mr. Hutton and Mr. Bassett. Thank you for picking us up when we fall down on the job.





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SCOTT PORTIS, CLASS OF '84

MCCLAIN PORTIS, CLASS OF '18

Big Red Hockey Devastates on the Ice

By Robert Cowan
Staff Iceman

Last year was another thrilling yet disappointing year for the Big Red hockey team. The team finished the regular season undefeated and went into the championship game undefeated. Sadly, that game would end up being the only loss for the team in a tough 3-1 game to Ravenwood. It would also be the end to a dominant season. It was the second year in a row the team had lost in the State Championship, and this year, the team wanted it to be different.

However, the Big Red only lost three players from last year, and the upcoming freshman class is going

to provide vital depth that the team lacked last year. The most notable freshman is Stephen Davis. At 14-years-old, he is already committed to Boston College, a top D-1 hockey school. He will be a great addition to an already stellar defensive core for the Big Red. Some other notable freshman include Alston Aron, Clayton Malone, and Brennan Roach, all of whom will provide help in many aspects on the ice.

Once again, the goal of the Big Red will be to win the State Championship, and MBA should have the strongest team this year. Ravenwood lost about five players from last year, and other teams are still rebuilding from years past. The one team that might



ACTION SHOT: The Big Red Engages in a heated scramble for the puck in a thrilling moment in game.

prove to be a tough test for the Big Red is Mount Juliet, who will have some returning players, along with a new player who was on the team before but returned to Nashville to play.

But the Big Red will be ready to shut them down along with every other team in GNASH. Noah Wamble is back in the net looking to be the tank that he's been the past two seasons. Jacob Kovick, Robert Cowan, Josh Morin, Blake Robison, Ellis Moore, and Brandon MacDonald Surman are all back to terrorize opposing defenses. Finally, Nick Ray, Daniel Cowan, Ben Evans, and Matthew Haley are back

to shut down any attempt on goal. The captain this year is Jacob Kovick with Nick Ray, Ellis Moore, and Blake Robison as alternate captains.

Over the summer, the team has been working hard to make sure this dream of a state title finally comes true. Every week in July, Coach Deutsch held off-ice practices and tried to get everyone on the ice to make sure everyone got stronger and faster. Coach D even bought the team a skate sharpener so that what happened in the championship game does not happen again. This year should not disappoint in any games, and the team encourages everyone to come to the games and support the team while they make another run at the Championship.

I BELIEVE: The Big Red Hockey team huddles around Coach Deutsch for an inspirational speech at a heated moment during a match.



Titans Poised to Rise?

By John Sewell
Staff LP

Although the Titans made some great draft picks and trades, they could not finish their Week 1 game of the 2016 season against the Vikings. The Titans looked playoff bound after their successful offseason but once again managed to find a way to lose a very winnable game. The momentum of the game changed quickly on the second drive of the second half when Marcus Mariota threw an interception that was returned for a touchdown. Mariota has struggled throughout his NFL career with turnovers. He has 11 interceptions and 11 fumbles in just 13 career games. If Mariota can reduce the amount of turnovers, then he could become a more reliable quarterback if the Titans want to contend for a playoff spot. Despite the Titans' strong running game, the offensive coordinator, Terry Robiskie, does not seem to trust the new running backs. DeMarco Murray only had 13 carries even though he had two receiving touchdowns and helped set up the play action for Mariota. In their upcoming games, the Titans should try and use DeMarco Murray and Derrick Henry more often to try and be more conservative in their playcalls.

One of the Titans' biggest problems is their defense, but in the 2016 draft, 60% of their picks were defensive players. This move seems to show they have priorities and know what the team needs. The first defensive pick for the Titans was a linebacker, Kevin Dodd, from Clemson. Although Dodd could be a good outside linebacker, he is not exactly what the team needs right now. With Jurrell Casey at defensive tackle and Brian Orakpo and Kevin Dodd as linebackers, the Titans run defense is above average compared to the rest of the team. However, the rest of their team, the secondary, is abysmal. Yet, the Titans have made some adjustments by drafting two new cornerbacks and a safety. The cornerbacks and safeties drafted will not be stars but rather role players who will get jobs done for the team.

Another problem the Titans have faced for years now is their offensive line. The Titans' offensive line is ranked 28th out of 32 teams according to Professional Football Focus. The Titans are trying to fix their O-line crisis, as they drafted Jack Conklin first round from Michigan State. If the offensive line could protect Mariota better, he would have more options, more time to think, and most of all, he would be at ease because he would not feel pressured to make a half-hearted pass off

the snap.

According to Football Outsiders, Mariota and the Titans will post a record of 7-9. The toughest teams the Titans will face are the Green Bay Packers, Denver Broncos, and the Houston Texans.

The Packers will be a tough team to beat because of their high potent offense. Aaron Rodgers is one of the best quarterbacks in the league and has wide receivers such as Jordy Nelson and Randall Cobb. The Packers also have elite linebackers such as Clay Matthews and Julius Peppers.

Denver will also be a hard team to beat because of their offense and one of the best defenses in the league. The Broncos have Trevor Siemian at quarterback, alongside speedy wide receivers such as Demaryius Thomas and Emmanuel Sanders. The most impressive feature of the Broncos is their defense. Von Miller is one of the most dominant linebackers in the game, helping the Broncos win the Super Bowl in their 2015-2016 season. The Broncos also have a pretty strong secondary, such as Aqib Talib.

The final team that will give the Titans a run for their money is the Houston Texans and J. J.

The Texans' defensive ends are some of the best in the league—J. J. Watt and Jadeveon Clowney. Together, they always put pressure on the quarterback and running backs and are likely to shred the weak Titans offensive line. Other than the Packers, Broncos, and the Texans, there is not much the Titans cannot handle if every player plays his best.

Although the Titans have a lot to work out this season, they have potential. They are a young team. Over time, if they can work out the kinks and draft some essential players, the Titans could be a more dominant team in the NFL.





HUGE DEBATE GUYS Seniors Andrew Kaplan and Ben Rosenthal, two top members of the MBA debate have consistently performed well throughout their careers at MBA and hope to have similar success debating in college.

Cont. from front page

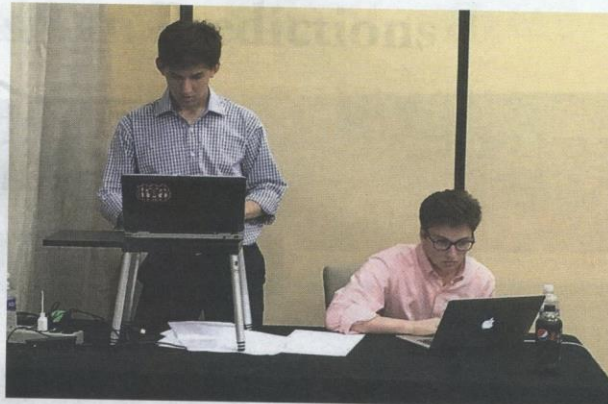
the school year leading up to two national championship tournaments in March and April, the NDCA and the Tournament of Champions.

MBA qualified two teams to the

tournament of champions last season, but expects to qualify at least four teams by this spring. The four teams that competed at Greenhill will likely earn a number of bids throughout the remainder of the season. The next test for the top MBA varsity teams is the Heart of Texas Invitational hosted by the St. Marks School of Texas over fall break.

How is a debate dynasty built? Ask Coach Josh Clark, who moved to Nashville three and a half years ago to take on the challenge of rebuilding the program. Clark, driven by a passion

for the game of debate, believed in building a large, successful program. Now in his fourth year as varsity coach of the team, the effects of Clark's coaching are now coming to fruition at the highest level of varsity debate.



WRITE LIKE YOU'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME: The team of Andrew Kaplan and Ben Rosenthal is one of the top ranked in the nation. Here, they are pictured researching intensively for a speech at a debate tournament, looking to get any advantage they can.

RISING STARS: Aden Barton and Thomas Zeuthen hoist their trophies with teammates Tanuj Koli and John Raulston Graham and Coach Clark, who has been instrumental in strengthening MBA's debate program.



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Cumberland
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ADVENTURE AWAITS



Sam Dugan's Heisman Predictions

By Sam Dugan
Staff Baller

Through Week 3, some of the candidates could have easily been predicted, while other candidates have surprised college football fans across the country. They have suddenly emerged onto a confusing 2016 college football scene. Though, this confusion and chaos is what makes college football so great.

5. Deshaun Watson, QB- Clemson

Coming in at number 5 is a player who has started the season a little slow; however, he still earns a spot on the countdown because of what he has previously shown what he can do. The junior quarterback can do it all, as displayed by his magnificent season last year. Fans saw what he did to Alabama, but his breakout game is yet to come this year. After mediocre performances against Auburn and Troy, Watson finally had a solid game against South Carolina State, as he had over 150 yards and 3 touchdowns in a very brief day. However, South Carolina State is well... South Carolina State. Once Watson shows us again why he was a Heisman finalist last year against a quality opponent, he will be right on track. If Deshaun just gets back to being Deshaun, he can go ahead and book his ticket for New York this December.

4. Donnel Pumphrey, RB- San Diego State

Next up on the list is a player who many may have never heard of prior to this article. Outside of San Diego State fans, not too many people are familiar with Donnel Pumphrey, but this guy can play. Pumphrey, a senior, has put himself on the Heisman

radar with his play through the first 3 weeks of the season, totaling nearly 600 yards and 7 touchdowns. Those numbers are staggering; however, because the Aztecs are in the Mountain West, which doesn't usually get much national attention, Pumphrey is going to have to do a lot to get to New York. If he keeps those numbers up though, he definitely has a shot. Keep an eye out for Pumphrey as the season continues to progress. He's going to do big things.

3. J.T. Barrett, QB- Ohio State

Coming in at number 3 is quarterback J.T. Barrett of the Ohio State Buckeye, who has continued to build off his play in 2015 with a strong start to the season. He has thrown for 10 touchdowns with just 1 interception, with a particularly impressive showing against Oklahoma, as he threw for 4 touchdowns to help the Buckeyes get a quality win in Norman. With a stronger Big 10 this year compared to the past few seasons, there will be many opportunities for the junior quarterback to prove his case for the Heisman. It will be interesting to see



HOPS: Lamar Jackson, Quarterback for Louisville, has proven early in the season to be a serious contender for this year's Heisman trophy through his impressive performances in the initial games.

how he and the Buckeyes turn out this season.

2. Christian McCaffrey, RB- Stanford

This guy never seems to disappoint. He is simply a highlight machine. Over his career, McCaffrey has racked up numerous 200, and even 300 yard, games. He does it from every aspect of the game, rushing, receiving and returning the ball multiple times in any given game. He has even thrown the ball before on the occasional trick play! McCaffrey has already reached the 450 all purpose yard mark, and the Cardinal have only played 2 games. Fans are not sure how he does it, but nobody would be surprised if we see

a season even more impressive than last year.

He sure has gotten off to a good start, and if his play continues, Stanford has a great chance to sit atop a weak Pac-12, make it to the College Football Playoffs, and McCaffrey will be in New York for the Heisman presentation.

1. Lamar Jackson, Louisville- QB

It shouldn't be a surprise to any college

football fan to see Jackson atop a Heisman list at this point in the season. Building off his finish to 2015, what Jackson has done in the first 3 games is one of the most impressive starts of the last decade. The sophomore has taken the college football world by storm with 18 touchdowns, doing so passing and rushing the ball. He has put the Louisville Cardinals on the national radar. Many doubted Jackson's success after the first 2 weeks because of his weak opponents (Charlotte and Syracuse), but after Louisville's week 3 demolition of Florida State, there were no more doubters. He proved why he is receiving so much hype, with 5 touchdowns (4 rushing, 1 passing). Even Michael Vick, one of the greatest dual-threats to ever play the game of football, stated that Jackson is "5x better than [he] was at [Virginia Tech]". That is definitely saying something. We'll see if Lamar Jackson can continue to put up these numbers, and if he can, he may be moving into the "Heisman House" in December.

At this point, the Heisman race is between Lamar Jackson and Christian McCaffrey...and then everybody else. If these two keep their play up, it will be a tight race between them for the trophy in December. Right now, the edge goes to Jackson, but McCaffrey is a stud, so who knows what he will do next to have us in awe. This season is shaping up to be an exciting one, already with many surprises, and college football fans cannot wait to see how things settle out when it's all said and done.



CARDINAL: Stanford Running Back Christian McCaffrey is the second most likely person to win the Heisman this year according to staff writer Sam Dugan '19, who promises to be a strong sportswriter for The Bell Ringer.

Freshmen Get HC Dates, Realize it's too Early

By Aden Barton, Zach Brown, and
Matt Kaplan
Staff Passengers

The Class of 2020 has had a fantastic start to highschool. This year the school brought in about 20 new freshmen, and they have been getting into the groove effectively. Take **Stewart Moore**, for example. On the first day in Miss Qian's class, he earned two demerits, on the second day, two more demerits, and on the third day, two more demerits. And still Stewart had a better start to the year than some other students..

The Class of 2020 also recently elected their class officers. **Grayson Hill** beat out **Will Crawford** in an intense runoff election, and the class feels comfortable with his leadership abilities, presidential maturity, and his constant pleasant interactions with everyone in our grade. Everyone is thrilled that Grayson is now our fearless leader. **Sammy K** took the W in a highly competitive field of vice presidential candidates. All Samuel guaranteed was that he will work hard, which is possibly more than some other candidates could guarantee. If you ever wondered how **Brennan Minkoff** became advisory

president and spoke at class meetings in both years of Junior School, then look no further for his next surprise: Brennan has taken his power role as secretary. **Aden Barton** did not find success in the last class news article, so he looked to fill the void with a victory in the run for treasurer.

With the beginning of freshman year also comes homecoming. Well, to get us all in the homecoming mood, we elected a homecoming court from a group of freshmen arbitrarily chosen, and presented to us at a class meeting by way of Google Forms. About half of the grade was not familiar with the names of any of their options, but we are sure our class will make the right choice, just as we did in electing our class officers.

Of course, homecoming spreads further than just a vote for homecoming court (which most people do not know or care about). We all have to ask people to homecoming. Well, we sort of do, or we can wait too long to ask her and have **Robbie Barnes** come in and steal her away. If Robbie does steal her, just ensure that you have not bought tickets to the Kanye concert



ECCE!: As our freshmen friends have yet to be exposed to the fine literature of the MBA English curriculum, they rely on the models of their friends Marcus and Sextus for inspiration in impressing their homecoming dates.

with the hopes of going with the girl who has been stolen. It's all good, though. Ike is still spiking, right Ike? It's yet to be determined whether Ikewill spike on Robbie in a duel, thought. We all are anxiously waiting. Unfortunately for the purposes of this article, our ventures into the world of homecoming have not been too eventful. Everyone in the Class of 2020 has asked their dates without being awkward, we trust, and to our

knowledge no one has asked by text.

Nothing overtly surprising has happened to our fall sports teams, except that our football team has actually won a few games.

Going forward, let's hope our class can continue this streak of success we're having. At this rate, most of us might actually make it to senior year.

Sophomores Get Responsible, Write an Article

By Sam Dugan and Jackson Lyell
Energy Bar Enthusiasts

It's been quite an eventful year so far for the sophomore class. **Garrett Murphy**'s shirt is still off, of course, and **Joe Stevens** is still **Joe Stevens**. But this year also offers a sense of change for the class of 2019.

Victories have been won, as sophomores unite to take down the 8th grade football players who "eat

with the ones they starve with." Last time I checked, there's food at lunch every day, but who knows. But losses have occurred as well, and we mourn for **William Davis** during this difficult time. He has been spotted taking the "L" at McDougal's on multiple occasions since the Week 1 loss.

Homecoming is always an exciting time at MBA, and this is year has been no exception for the sophomores. There have been surprises, statements made, and sometimes even chaos. First up to ask this year was **Garrett "no shirt" Murphy** who asked Leah Allen. This move was a huge comeback for G after MBA fallen soldier, **Max Bostleman**, took his date last year. But let's be honest, who would turn down Bojangles? **Jackson "Primetime" Singer**, **Walker Conner**, **Cole "Cheetah" Barker**, **Cannon "The Cannon" King**, and **Tye "Jake" Herbstreit** found dates as well. We are off to a good start, but I expect many others to step it up soon. Maybe even **Braden Myers**. Wait who? What? Where?

The most prominent news of this year has been the outbreak of the overnight sensation Pupil. Pupil specializes in the art of EDM and infuses deep meaning into all of his music. He has reached almost 1,000 plays on Soundcloud and is rumored to be playing at Bonnaroo this upcoming year. Pupil's most recent single, "Glass," has stolen the hearts of many in the Nashville area, inspiring a new generation of fans.

A rivalry has even sparked as a result of the rise of Pupil. He has been dueling with fellow Nashville "star" **Connor Smith** after Pupil's manager, Blake "Best hair in the grade by default" Andrews posted a photo mocking the ignorant fans of **Connor**, who claim he is a better than Pupil. The fans of Connor responded with outrage, inciting the feud that has taken over the 2019 class all around Nashville. As Pupil remains calm throughout the situation, **Connor** has taken to social media, attempting to "rail" Pupil in anger at the fact that Pupil is now the face of the city. All eyes are on Pupil, and I'm sure his fame will only grow in the coming weeks.

Be on the lookout for the budding musical career of **GJ-Murphy**, who has been collaborating with the enemy, but is rumored to be

beginning to see the light in the greatness of Pupil. Other News Many of our classmates attended the latest Nashville event, Life in Color. The concert received mostly positive reviews. One classmate we interviewed by the pseudonym "Beegje" stated that it was "an amazing experience that brought together Big Red students of all grades." He also said that he recommends the event to all classmates.

Sources are now telling us that **Charlie Buffkin** is preparing to "Buckle down for the Mid-quarter" and that **Sam Funk** considering a return to golf. Meanwhile **Grant "Neanderthal" Ellison** got rims on his truck. **Jackson Lampley** anxiously awaits the HH-MBA King's Island Trip (The 10-08), hoping to step up his game for homecoming. The rest of the class looks forward to the coming of the new class t-shirts (\$15).

In our economic and political news, **Jack Rankin** has officially endorsed Hillary Clinton to be the next president of the United States, while **William Davis** officially ends his partnership with Muscle Milk and P90x. Thanks for reading. Stayed tuned for the next installment of the Class News.

GIRLS? One entrepreneurial young sophomore seems to have landed himself a lady friend.



Juniors Realize Grades Matter, Love Physics

By Jack Crawford and Thomas Carr
Staff Juniors

After quite the summer of adventure, the class of 2018 has returned stronger than ever for its junior year campaign. Many of our classmates ventured into foreign lands this summer, with **Jackson Abbey** bringing back not only an intriguing man bun, but also knowledge about even more random FIFA teams. **Mac Roberts** had "the best time of his life" going by himself to China with Zhang Lao Shi and staying with her and her daughter. Meanwhile, **Ty Allen** denied this golden opportunity to go instead with his beloved Troy Jiang to smuggle even more iPhones back and forth between China and the U.S.

Class stud **Palmer Thombs** has had a fantastic start to the school year with his favorite college football teams going a combined 54-6 through two weeks. Among those teams are Ohio State (2-0), UNC (1-1), and UT (2-0) (confront him if you desire to know the other 27 teams). He thrives on watching all games simultaneously

on his computer, claiming, after all, Saturdays are for the boys. Boys candidate **Carter McClellan** has recently decided to take his talents to the stallion industry and attempt to sell his truck in return for a horse as his new form of transportation. Make sure to high five the Belle Meade Cowboy on his new mustang as he struts down Belle Meade Boulevard.

Some other big news around the league: **William Kinard** has enticed a completely new division of the female species by "feeding honey" to attract young honey bears that are not to be named. On the opposite end of the spectrum, while class athlete **Will Nutter** received a few wounds in the field of battle, **Cal Bryan** only managed to get five months ahead on his physics homework, giving himself a little separation from **Jackson Abbey**, who "nearly failed" his very first **Carro** test. Speaking of stellar academics, a huge shoutout goes to **Ben Coulthard** for his uncommon ability to be able to answer all the questions in AP Spanish class. You go, Ben!

In the "athletics" realm of the eleventh grade, we are sad to report that **Frank Mandeville** Rogers VII has been struggling with a case of the shanks, consistently hitting hizzle after hizzle into the shrubbery. Although he "consistently shoots under par," his recent struggles seem to contradict this analysis of his game. Looking to sharpen his skills in an attempt for a varsity run next year, **Zach Smith**

has been meticulously working on his game with Coach Miller to pursue his career on the golf courses of Ireland with Coach Kelly. On the football field, identical twins **Fenner** and **Gordon Pollock** have been shining stars, as evident through Butch

Jones' appearance at the game against Melrose (' MON).

All in all, the junior class has had a phenomenal start to the year and looks forward to taking their successes to the next level. Through the help of **Harrison Kidd**, his surveys, and **Alex Bulgarino**, school is good and the parking lot is clean, making everyone excited for another year on the hill!

PLEASE MR. PRESIDENT: Harrison Kidd, President of the Junior Class, pictured upon his porcelain throne in his most sacred space of thinking.



Seniors Realize They're Seniors, Tell Freshmen

By Brett Starr
Staff Elder

As our days on this campus slip away and senioritis sets in, the Bell Ringer staff has generously allowed me to bring you some comic relief by letting me write this article.

Our last homecoming approaches, and the mad scramble for a date begins once again. Options are abundant, but it's difficult to find the perfect girl. Will you take the Harpeth Hall girl that you've known for years, or perhaps the Deg who ends up crying at the after party for no apparent reason? Some prefer to take the road less traveled. Will you fly in your long distance girlfriend that you met on a Wilson Grant or through debate camp? Will you bring a lovely southern Belle from JH Ranch that lives in Birmingham? We know **Jack Hayles** and **Frist Allen** have already made up their minds, but it will be exciting to see whom everyone takes. In other news, our class has had two recent commitments to play sports at the next level.

Congratulations to **Ty Chandler** and **George Harwell** for

committing to UT and Vandy respectively. We always knew Ty would end up playing college football, but not all of us saw George turning his dreams into a reality. However, George has really impressed us with his work ethic over the past few years, especially in school. Although some of us wanted to see him go somewhere else, it will be hard not to get excited when we see Ty running the ball in Neyland Stadium for years to come.

The Bell Ringer Staff recently interviewed a few huge UT fans in our grade to get their opinion on Ty's commitment.

Brad Hornsby: "Ty committing to UT was the best thing that's ever happened to me. I realistically see UT winning the national championship for the next 10 years."

Magnus Campos: "I will give my all for Tennessee today. Don't tread on me."

As the presidential election approaches, many students in Class of 2017 are starting to get frantic about the potential of a Hillary Clinton victory. However, **Mac Lassing**, along with the The

Elkin twins, are in complete denial about recent polls and a likely win for the Democratic Party. They still sincerely believe that Donald Trump is Christ reborn, descending from Heaven to save our burning and crumbling nation.

The football team is off to a great start. After a tough loss to Hewitt-Trussville, the team has bounced back and hasn't lost since. However, the Animal House really needs to step up its game. Instead of fighting over who gets

to stand on the front row and yelling at **Aubrey Greene** with the megaphone, the focus should be on cheering and playing timely music to get the team hype.

To conclude this article, I would like to ask that everyone has a fun, but safe, senior year. We would all hate nothing more than to walk across that graduation stage without one of the current members of the Class of 2017. Our strength as a class is in numbers.

READY TO GO: Magnus Campos cheers on the Vanderbilt Commodores in their Music City Bowl victory.



The Bell Ringer took it upon itself to point out the all-too-obvious parallels between faculty members and our favorite characters in a galaxy far, far away.

STAR WARS

Will Norton is Luke Skywalker, ready to battle any forces of the Dark side that threaten The Hill.

Jim Womack is Obi Wan Kenobi, whose longevity and eruditeness are more than enough to replicate the effects of the classic mind trick.

John Lanier is Yoda, the mystical Jedi Master whose true secrets are more than mysterious.

Tim Boyd is Darth Vader, whose quick rise from humble teacher to administrator parallels Anakin's own journey to the Dark side.



Annie B. Williams is Leia Organa, the resourceful and intelligent heroine.

Jordan Frederick is Han Solo, with saxophone runs swift enough to do the Kessel Run in twelve parsecs.

Will McMurray is Chewbacca, who can rip a football player's arms off with a tremendous roar.



Ed Tarkington is Lando Calrissian, whose extensive knowledge of Renaissance poetry makes him the suavest ladies man in the Outer Rim.

Ronnie McMahan is Boba Fett, who will hunt you down if there's a bounty posted on you for parking in the wrong spot.

Marc Ardisson and Chris Reynolds are R2D2 & C3PO, the inseparable tech duo.

Robert Pruitt is Emperor Palpatine, whose water splashes can be just as deadly as bolts of lightning.

